**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening molecules having an anti-prion activity, comprising:

a yeast of phenotype;

an antibiogram; and

a prion curing agent in a sub-effective dose, wherein the yeast has the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.

2. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

3. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the prion curing agent is guanidium chloride.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for screening molecules having anti-prion activity, the method comprising:

a. producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;

b. contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;

c. incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C; and

d. evaluating the staining of the cell colonies,

wherein the cells comprise yeasts of [*PSI+*] phenotype having the *ade1-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.

5. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

6. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the curing agent is guanidium chloride.

7. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4 further comprising:

e. incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C; and/or

f. carrying out a secondary screening test.

8. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 7, wherein the secondary screening test comprises:

constructing a strain of yeast in which the *ADE2* gene is under the control of the *DAL5* gene promoter;

producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;

contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;

incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C;

evaluating the staining of the cell colonies; and

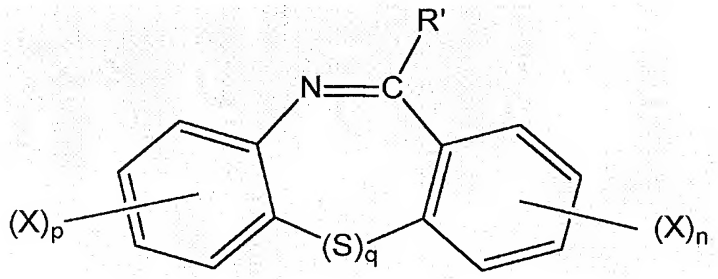
incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (I)




(I)

wherein R' is an H, $NH_2$, or $NHR^2$ group, wherein $R^2$ is an alkyl or alkylaminoalkyl chain with 1 to 10 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched,

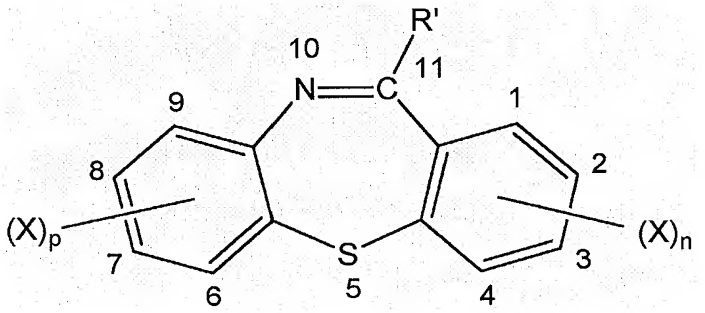
X represents F, Cl, Br, I, $CF_3$, $SCH_3$, $OCH_3$, OH, $NO_2$, $COCH_3$, $CONH_2$, COOH, or $COOR^3$, where $R^3$ is an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

q is equal to 0 or 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (III)




(III)

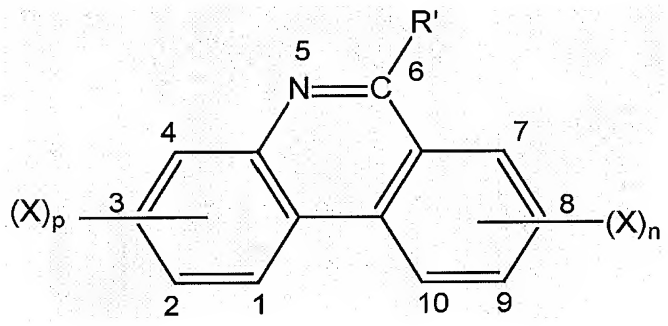
wherein R' represents an H, $NH_2$, $NH\text{-}(CH_2)_3\text{-}N(CH_3)_2$, or $NH\text{-}CH(CH_3)\text{-}(CH_2)_3\text{-}N(CH_2\text{-}CH_3)_2$ group,

X represents F, Cl, or $CF_3$,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein R' represents an H, $NH_2$, NH-$(CH_2)_3$-$N(CH_3)_2$, or NH-$CH(CH_3)$-$(CH_2)_3$-$N(CH_2$-$CH_3)_2$ group,

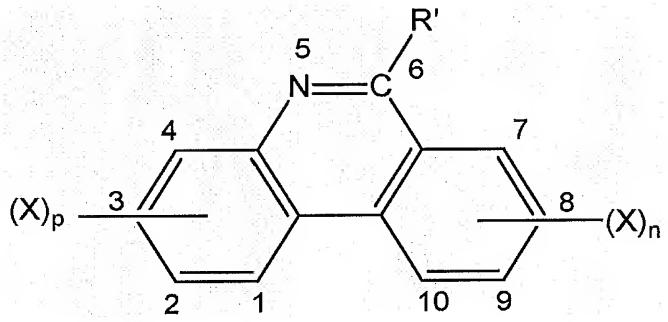
X represents F, Cl, or $CF_3$,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13
wherein R' represents an $NH_2$ group,
X represents F, Cl, or $CF_3$,
p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the neurodegenerative diseases include: spongiform encephalopathies, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease.

16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a therapeutically effective quantity of at least one compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein R' represents an $NH_2$, [[$NH-(CH_2)_3-N(CH_3)_2$,]] or
$NH-CH(CH_3)-(CH_2)_3-N(CH_2-CH_3)_2$ group,
X represents F, Cl, or $CF_3$,
p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,
in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

17. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein in the compound of formula (II), R' represents an $NH_2$ group,
X represents F, Cl, or $CF_3$,
p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

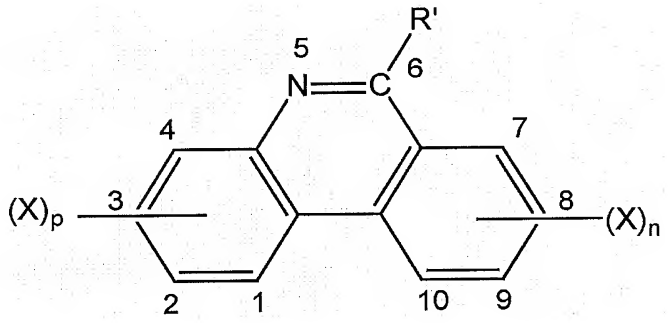
18. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 16.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 17.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.

22. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:
a therapeutically effective quantity of at least one compound of formula (II)




(II)

wherein R' is -NH-$(CH_2)_3$-$N(CH_3)_2$,
X is F, Cl, or $CF_3$, and
p and n, identical or different, are equal to 1 or 2,
in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.